



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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Courtesy of FreeFoto.com

General Meeting October 2nd 7:30 pm Western Foundation When Warblers Meet Wind Farms

Using clean, non-polluting wind power to generate electricity would seem like a perfect environmentally friendly solution to our energy problems, but everything, it seems, has its downside.

A year and a half ago, LA Audubon got involved with the issue of wind farms in response to a proposed LADWP installation near Butterbredt Springs, a major flyway for migrant songbirds. With that they embarked on a difficult journey from early attempts to encourage the LADWP to at least adequately study the impact of wind turbines on migratory songbirds to a California Environmental Quality Act lawsuit. By so doing LA Audubon has earned a seat at the table representing migratory songbirds in the current efforts by the California Energy Commission and California State Fish & Game to create statewide guidelines for locating of wind farms.

Garry George, who has been intimately involved with

this process, is Executive Director of Los Angeles Audubon, serves on the Audubon California Board as Southern California Chapter Representative and will tell us what he knows about the issue of birds vs. wind farms in California ... and why we should care.

Bolsa Chica

Here's some good news for our feathered friends.

The ocean flowed into the historic Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve for the first time in 107 years. Earthmovers cut through an earthen dam and salt water poured into the restored tidal basin. This area was previously part of one of California's second largest oil fields. Officials thought it would take 6 hours for the ocean water to fill in the 387-acre basin.

Tidal flows and ebbs will fill the basin twice a day, restoring a natural rhythm that should replenish the fragile ecosystem and will greatly increase species diversity. The degraded wetlands were already home to 200 species of birds – including six on state or federal lists of endangered or threatened species. Biologists will introduce two types of plants to the wetlands – eel grass and cord grass – to provide nesting habitat for some of the endangered species.

Environmentalists have worked 30 years to restore the massive Bolsa Chica tidal wetlands. This is the largest and most ambitious restoration of costal wetlands in the history of California.

Material from Associated Press and Ventura County articles by **Gillian Flaccus**.

CALENDAR

October

1	7:45 am	Field trip	Malibu Lagoon
2	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
7	7:45 am	Field trip	Camino Real Park
12	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
13	call	Field trip	Hopper Mountain
21	7:45 am	Field trip	Ventura Wildlife Ponds
27	7:30 am	Field trip	Pt. Mugu Naval Base

***** Pre meeting Dinner *****
Ottavio's in Camarillo at 5:15 pm

Call **Nobuko Mc Clure**
for reservations
24 hours in advance of the monthly
general meeting (805) 482-0411.

CVAS Events

The public is welcome to attend any CVAS meeting or field trip. CVAS assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending a society sponsored activity and will not be held liable for such accidents. One attends at one's own risk. Please call the trip leader in advance to learn of any changes to the field trip plans.

Field Trips

The times specified are departure times - **be sure to arrive 15 min earlier.** Try to car pool when ever possible and don't forget to give the driver gas money!

RAIN CANCELS!

Sunday, October 1 Malibu Lagoon

Great ducks and shorebirds, rails and gulls. Leave Rancho Park and Ride at 8 am and bring carpool money.

Tom Halpin and **Carol Langford** will lead (805) 987-2721.

Saturday, October 7 Camino Real Park

Leave Las Posas park and ride at 8 am or meet at the park at 8:20. Always a great location for vagrants, possible late migrants, woodpeckers, hawks, hummingbirds.

Leader is **Thelma Williams** (805) 492-2796.

Thursday, October 12 Beginners Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call **Angie Kobabe** between 9 am and 9 pm to let her know you are coming and find out where it will be (818) 991-4055. Rain cancels.

Friday, October 13 Hopper Mountain

First 25 people to call will meet in Fillmore . We hope to see the Condors in their feeding area. Led by Mark Hall. 4 wheel drives needed. Must call **Chrystal** at (805) 522-8023 to get on the list.

Saturday, October 21 Ventura Wildlife Ponds

Come see what ducks have come back! 1400 Spinnaker Road at Ventura Harbor. Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am or meet at the gate to the ponds at 8:30. **Bets Buchanan** will lead (805) 482-0063. We have seen Canvas-back, Red-Head, Ring-neck, Scaup, Mallard, Ruddy, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Shovelers, Green-winged, Cinnamon Teal and many different herons and egrets at these ponds.

Friday, October 27 Pt. Mugu Naval Base

As you know, this is our best birding site in Ventura County. Dee Lyon will lead, and it is possible to see as many as 80 to 90 species! Should have many duck and shorebird species. Maximum group size is 25 people, and those who sign up at our Sept meeting will have first dibs. Call **Don Williamson** (818) 889-4498 to get on the list. We will leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:45 am or meet at 8 am at Pt. Mugu parking lot with your ID.

Save this Date!

December 31, 2006 CVAS Christmas Bird Count

Bird Festivals

November 16 - 19, 2006 Central Valley Birding Symposium

Where will you be Nov. 16-19? How about learning the story of "Birds on the Wind"- the "where, why, and when" of bird migration with Kevin Karlson - or taking his workshop on "Birding Made Simpler"? Marvel at the "Falcons of North America" by noted photographer John Hendrickson and consider the environmental implications of "\$4.00 a Gallon Birding" discussed by Kimball Garrett. Interested in raptors? Simone Whitecloud will help you out with "Raptors Demystified". How about attending a program by Joe Morlan about the "Birds and Wildlife of Eastern Australia" if you want to wander farther afield. If not, Ed Harper's program on "Sharing the Experience" of Central Valley Birding will be a delight.

Have you guessed yet? Come to the Tenth Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton, CA Nov. 16-19 and experience all these things as well as field trips, the "Birder's Market", and more. Brochures will be on the way soon, and advance information will be available ASAP at our website, <http://cvbs.org>

January 12 - 15, 2007 Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Registration opens October 1st www.morrobaybirdfestival.org

February 7 - 12, 2007 San Diego Bird Festival Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest.htm

Field Trip Reports

Santa Clara River Estuary

by Dee Lyon

Close to 20 of us wandered down to SCRE in beautiful weather, with Oscar Johnson leading (he caught a look at Pom Jaeger before we arrived) enjoying the Godwits flying by and the Snowy Plovers scurrying across the sand in front of the dogs. Very busy Labor Day weekend, and the fact that the river is a lake again did not help the diversity of species.

We did manage around 45 of the usual suspects, but also including the Burns' 2 Mute Swans. We had a 5 Tern day, with Common, Forsters, Caspian, Elegant and Least. Lots of Godwits, Willets, Sanderlings and Red-necked Phalarope (close) also a Common Loon, Kestrel and Osprey flyby.

We checked out the harbor and found Surfbirds, Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Pelagic Cormorants and Western Grebe. A lovely day of birding!

Laguna Tams

by Dee Lyon

Sun morning about 20 of us enjoyed the warblers at Laguna Tams; PRAIRIE WARBLER, Hermit, Townsends, Nashville, Yellow, Orange-crown, Wilson's, Black-throated Gray and Yellow Throat. Pacific Slope Flycatcher and Warbling Vireos wandered through, with the sound of the House Wren and a Bewick's Wren. At Revlon Slough, the Red-necked Phalaropes were swimming, along with a Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted, Least and Westerns. Lots of birds at the end of Arnold Road, but caught up with the big flock of Black-bellied Plovers on Casper, accompanied by a Pacific Golden Plover and two Snipe. Great day with over 50 species.

Western Reef Heron

by Riley Neel

Last Friday (8/25), while crossing the bridge from Portsmouth to New Castle, NH in pursuit of another historic home, we noticed a bunch of birders with scopes and binocs looking over the side. I said to my wife, Valarie, "I should stop & see what they're looking at." She said, "You must, or you'll forever wonder." It was the dark morph of the Western Reef Heron (*egretta gularis*) from Africa! According to postings on the internet, it's been on the coast from Nova Scotia in June working its way to New Hampshire by the end of August. It's only the 2nd -- 4th (depending on source)



sighting in North America. One of the birders on the bridge said it's very closely related to the Little Egret and that some consider them the same species.

Shutterbugs

by Don Williamson

The Shutterbugs had their first meeting on August 8th in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village in Camarillo. This promises to be an interesting and informative group. The September meeting was a visit to the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology to join the Conejo Valley Audubon Society at the kick-off "Show and Tell" presentation and first meeting of the new season. The next two meetings will be back at Leisure Village for a presentation on tripods and digiscoping in October and color correction of digital images in November.

If you are interested in attending the Shutterbugs meetings, contact Jerry Spector at (805) 384-9039 to be put on the access list for Leisure Village.

Vote No on Prop 90 !!! The Most Extreme Threat to California's Environment in Decades !!

Prop. 90 is a full frontal assault on environmental protection in California. Hidden behind language to stop abuses of eminent domain, Prop 90 includes several very dangerous provisions that would drastically cut back on the State's, local governments' and even voters' ability to protect the environment, local communities, farmland, and other important resources. The most damaging provisions would make it nearly impossible to implement many resource protection laws or to acquire private property to protect wildlife habitat or other important resources.

The official opposition form, fact sheets and other materials related to Prop. 90 are on Audubon's website, www.ca.audubon.org. For more information, please contact Julia Levin, State Policy Director, at jlevin@audubon.org or 510-601-1866, ext. 2.

Have You Seen This Bug?

California Department of Food and Agriculture



The diaprepes root weevil, *Diaprepes abbreviatus*, is a large weevil, native to the Caribbean Islands, that feeds on about 270 different plants including citrus, hibiscus, avocado, peach, guava, loquat, and oak. In California, it has already been intercepted in shipments of plants from Florida and detected in some of our urban landscapes. If you have seen this weevil or collected a sample (in a small jar or plastic bag), please report it by calling 1-800-491-1899. Thank you.